

STANDARDS OF INDEPENDENCE

FOR CHICOPEE SENIOR CENTER PARTICIPATION

Our programs are primarily designed for and targeted to people aged sixty and older, and to those married to someone who is sixty or older. Others may participate when the staff has been consulted. Discrimination based upon race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or disability is not allowed. Please note the following standards of independence and behavior with respect to senior center attendance.

Participants at the senior center must:

1. Provide the staff with the telephone number of a person to contact in case of an emergency. If a participant experiences a medical problem while on the premises, it is expected (but not mandatory) that the participant will follow the recommendation of the senior center staff to seek appropriate medical attention.
2. Refrain from smoking, drinking alcohol or using illegal substances on the premises. Participants who are inebriated will be asked to leave immediately.
3. Be reasonably oriented, capable of independent decision making and planning their own activities, e.g., transportation, lunch, financial transactions as well as be responsible for their own personal care.
4. Avoid causing disturbances, and to show respect for building facilities and personal property of others.
5. Be responsible for their own personal health and medical care, including the taking of medications, monitoring special diets, etc. Senior center staff are not responsible for providing assistance with medication and other personal health and medical care.
6. Violence or threats of violence are not permitted and will result in the participant being asked to leave.

If any inappropriate behavior is witnessed or reported, the staff will use discretion to take corrective action, e.g., asking the participant to abstain from the inappropriate behavior, or if necessary, contact the police, doctor, ambulance or emergency contact person. Repeated violations may result in the participant being asked to leave.

The Chicopee Council on Aging recognizes and honors the legitimate rights for services to all elders regardless of limitations and disabilities. When difficult care and behavioral problems arise, the council will consult and collaborate with other services providers to seek options to make reasonable accommodations.